

Department • Beverly Hills Fire Department  
Department • Culver City Fire Department  
Fire Department • Glendale Fire Depart-  
• La Habra Heights Fire Department • La  
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partment • West Covina Fire Department  
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ent • **Los Angeles County Paramedic Reunion** •  
• **Los Angeles 1969 - 2007** Department •  
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The Los County Fire Fighters of  
Local 1014  
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## PARAMEDIC REUNION

Globe Theatre  
Universal Studios Hollywood  
Thursday, March 29, 2007  
6:00pm

# REUNION PROGRAM

6:00pm - 7:00pm

## Guest Registration

Snacks and Refreshments available in the Streets of the World  
(No Host Bar and Drinks)  
Historical photo presentation will be playing in the Globe Theatre  
Vendor booths will be open in the Globe Theatre and Streets of the World

7:00pm – 8:00pm

## Welcome/Introductions

**Dr. Bruce Hensel**  
*Chief Medical Science Editor, NBC 4*  
**Carol Meyer**  
*Director, LA County EMS Agency*

## Blessing of the Ceremony

**Captain Tim Stromer**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*  
*Chaplain, LA County Fire Department, Retired*

## Opening Remarks

**Randolph Mantooth**  
*Actor/Writer/Producer/Speaker*

## Keynote Address

**Dr. Ron Stewart**  
*1st Medical Director of the Paramedic Training Institute*

## Great Saves by Paramedics

## Introduction of Dignitaries / Comments by:

**Dr. J. Michael Criley**  
**Dr. Walter Graf**

## Viewing of "Life on the Line: Heroes Act"

**Daniel H. Birman Productions**  
**Daniel H. Birman, Producer**  
**Dave Eisenberg, Associate Producer**

## Closing Remarks

8:00pm

## Buffet Dinner

Music and Dancing  
Autographs with Dignitaries  
Class Photos, Photos with Squad 51  
Raffle  
Historical photo presentation will be playing in the Globe Theatre  
Vendor booths will be open in Globe and Streets of the World

10:00pm

## Reunion party ends

# BUFFET MENU

## Classic Italian

- Roman Style Artichoke Salad with Roasted Peppers and Parmesan
- Eggplant Parmesan with Vine-Ripened Tomatoes
- Wild Mushroom Tortelloni
- Fusilli Pasta with Sundried Tomatoes and Parmesan
- Chicken Marsala

## Mexican Flavors

- Tostada Salad with Chicken
- Sweet Pepper and Corn Salad with Shrimp
- Traditional Carnitas with Warm Corn and Flour Tortillas
- Lobster and Chili Quesadillas
- Refried Black Beans with Cheese and Onions
- Spanish Rice

## Asian Flavors

- Asian Chicken Lettuce Wraps with Carrots, Bean Sprouts, Chopped Peanuts and Thai Peanut Sauce
- Vegetable Lo Mein with Black Bean Sauce
- Assorted Rolled and Nigiri Sushi with Pickled Ginger, Soy Sauce and Wasabi

## Sweets

- Chocolate Truffle Cakes
- Buttermilk Cake with Strawberries and Crème Fraiche
- Miniature French Butter Apple Tarts
- Assorted Tiny Tastes of Cookies





# HISTORY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County has one of the largest and most diverse Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems in the country. It serves 10 million residents in 88 cities, covers over 4,000 square miles of deserts, mountains, valleys and beaches, and attends to virtually every prehospital care situation that can be expected to occur in the County's urban, rural, and wilderness areas.

Prior to the establishment of an official EMS system in 1970, there was no consistent method for responding to sudden injury or illness. The patient may have self-transported to a local physician or hospital; bystanders may have rendered care and/or transportation; local physicians may have visited the patient at home; or an ambulance—usually owned and operated by a private mortuary—may have been called to take the patient to a nearby hospital or local physician. The mechanisms of transport and treatment of emergency patients in Los Angeles County varied from city to city and often from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Over the past thirty years, many geographic, political, organizational, medical, and economic issues have melded together to influence the growth and development of the EMS system. Los Angeles County has been at the forefront of this development—from initiating one of the first paramedic training programs in the country to influencing the passage of many local, state and national laws. Today, Los Angeles County continues to be a national model in the field of emergency medical services.



## MILITARY INFLUENCE

Throughout history, military campaigns have driven the progression of transportation and treatment of the ill and injured. Minimizing the number of deaths and facilitating the recovery of the injured have always been major concerns during warfare. As a result, many present-day emergency medical techniques and services are based on military-instituted studies and programs, such as the development of ambulances, transport litters, field hospitals, Military Anti-Shock Trousers, rapid extrication, triage, and early treatment.

Los Angeles County, along with other areas of the country, began to recognize that deaths from various diseases and traumas could be prevented by rapid transportation and early field treatment of patients. This concept was validated during World War I and World War II when mortality rates decreased as soldiers were treated and rapidly transported to military field hospitals.



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## RESEARCH INFLUENCE

Between 1963 and 1967, the concept of emergency care in the United States was being broached on several fronts.

Committees on trauma, shock and anesthesia and special task forces from the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (NAS-NRC) examined the status of emergency medical care provided to victims of accidental injury. The resulting NAS-NRC report, titled *Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society* (1966), drew critical attention to the topic of ambulances and ambulance attendants and led to the establishment of standards for training, equipment and dispatch. The report also recommended the use of "pilot programs" to determine the efficacy of providing physician-staffed ambulances for care at the site of injury and during transportation.

During the same year, Congress passed the Highway Safety Act of 1966, which was prompted by the high number of deaths caused by traffic accidents each year. This act provided a major impetus for the development of a national EMS system and the standardization of an educational curriculum for emergency medical technicians.

Meanwhile, physicians in the United States were studying ways to improve the survival rate of cardiac patients. They were aware of prehospital care efforts throughout the world, including a Russian program in the early 1900s, which dispatched a doctor, a nurse and a special physician's assistant to treat patients in the field. In 1961, Germany began using ambulances staffed with a physician to treat patients in the field. Six years later, the first published study defining a Mobile Coronary Care Unit (MCCU) was conducted in Belfast, Ireland by Dr. Frank Pantridge. He demonstrated that heart attack victims who were treated early in the field by physicians in ambulances had lower mortality and better long-term survival rates.



## PILOT PROJECTS



Dr. J. Michael Criley

In Los Angeles County, Drs. J. Michael Criley and Walter Graf were also working to improve the survival rate of heart attack victims.

While each physician took a unique path in his search for improved cardiac care methods, both were instrumental in molding prehospital care medicine and providing the foundation from which it has developed. Ultimately their paths converged and their original concepts expanded into what became the Mobile Intensive Care Unit Paramedic.

In 1969, Dr. Walter Graf, President of the Los Angeles County Heart Association, spearheaded a MCCU program in the Inglewood-Centinel area. A large, white vehicle owned by McCormick Ambulance and referred to as the "Heart Car" was equipped with a cardiac monitor, defibrillator, and radio communication equipment purchased through donations. The Heart Car was one of three such ambulance programs in the United States, the others being in New York City, New York and Columbus, Ohio.

With the success of the pilot program, rapid transport and treatment en route to the hospital had proven to be an effective means to decrease morbidity and mortality.



Dr. Walter Graf



## PILOT PROJECTS

Soon afterwards, the Board of Supervisors and community leaders met to consider the best way to deliver emergency care in the County. After lengthy debate, they decided to train fire department personnel as paramedics based on a variety of factors: the fire department's existing infrastructure, the availability of personnel 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, the wide distribution of fire stations throughout the County, the existence of an established communications system, and a history of successfully training firefighters to provide first aid. Spearheaded by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, the new pilot program would train firefighters as paramedics to provide emergency services throughout Los Angeles County.

In 1969, six firefighters from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and 12 firefighters from the Los Angeles City Fire Department were trained at Harbor General Hospital (HGH) under the guidance of Dr. Criley and Critical Care Unit Nurse Carol Bebout to be the County's first paramedics. Within this same time period, Dr. Graf began training paramedics at Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital (DFH).

On December 8, 1969, Rescue Heart Unit, a green Plymouth station wagon obtained from the Division of Forestry, became the first official Los Angeles County Fire Rescue Unit placed into service. Headquartered at Fire Station 59 on the grounds of HGH, the station wagon was quickly repainted fire engine red and lettered "Rescue Heart Unit." This unit was capable of communicating with HGH, but did not have telemetry equipment in place to transmit data on heart activity. Within a few days of service, Squad 59 registered its first patient save, Clement Demuth, who was resuscitated from a full cardiac arrest after choking on food in a restaurant.



Whenever a call came in, the red station wagon would roll out of Fire Station 59 at the same time a cardiac nurse from HGH's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) was alerted to the "run." The nurse would race down four flights of stairs to meet up with the rescue unit just as it was pulling up outside the back door of the hospital. The nurse would ride along with the paramedics, since the law at that time permitted only doctors and

## PILOT PROJECTS

nurses to administer medication and defibrillate patients. After about six months of operation, difficulties arose in continually "borrowing" a nurse from the CCU each time a call came in.

Efforts were underway to alleviate this problem, but medical legislation would have to be passed to allow paramedics to legally administer care without requiring the accompaniment of a nurse.

## WEDWORTH-TOWNSEND PARAMEDIC ACT

Enter the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act. This act proposed that firefighters be certified to perform some of those procedures traditionally reserved for doctors and nurses. It defined the role of the Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN), further defined the paramedic practice and allowed paramedics to function without the presence of a physician or nurse.

Dr. John Affeldt, Medical Director of the Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services, worked with five others, including Drs. Criley and Graf, on the content of the proposed state law. The office of County Counsel transformed this content into appropriate statutory language and the draft legislation was presented to the Board of Supervisors in January 1970.

Soon after, Senator James Q. Wedworth and Assemblyman Larry Townsend jointly introduced the bill into both houses of the State. Together with Supervisor Hahn, Senator Wedworth and Assemblyman Townsend drove the bill through the legislative process against opposition by many powerful interest groups.



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## WEDWORTH-TOWNSEND PARAMEDIC ACT

In a direct effort to stifle opposition, language was included to allow only a county with a population of greater than six million to initiate a pilot program. Los Angeles was the only county in the state to qualify under this restriction at that time. By eliminating other counties from mandatory or voluntary participation in the pilot program, legislators from those counties would not feel responsible for having to take part in it.

It appeared to many in the medical community that this new paraprofessional would "de-professionalize" other areas in medicine. For instance, the paramedics were being given the authority to administer medications. Even nurses had only owned this privilege for a relatively short period of time.

Therefore, it is understandable that both the California Nurses Association and the Emergency Department Nurses Association opposed the legislation. Since long-standing professional medical codes were being modified, the Medical Society opposed the legislation. Additionally, the California Ambulance Association and California Bar Association opposed the bill, citing concerns that there was no legal recourse for malpractice against the paramedic.

Governor Ronald Reagan was set to veto the bill.

Upon hearing the news, Supervisor Hahn immediately flew to Sacramento to meet with the governor. While explaining how the paramedic program would extend throughout the county, Supervisor Hahn placed his thumb on the Governor's desk and drew an imaginary circle. He explained that his thumb represented Daniel Freeman Hospital and named surrounding cities to be serviced by paramedic units: "This is Inglewood, this is Culver City, this is Hawthorne."

Governor Reagan stopped Supervisor Hahn and said, "Do you mean this program will cross city boundaries?"

The Supervisor responded, "yes it will."

Governor Reagan recounted how his own father had died of a heart attack due to the refusal of an ambulance crew to cross jurisdictional boundaries.

On July 14, 1970, the Wedworth-Townsend Act was signed into law.



Assemblyman Larry Townsend (left) and State Senator James Q. Wedworth (right), sponsors of the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act, join with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn in watching Governor Ronald Reagan sign the historic bill into law on July 14, 1970.

## "EMERGENCY!"



By 1972, the paramedic program was well under way, supported by federal grants and expanding to cities throughout the country. NBC-4 Producer Robert Cinader became curious about the potential of a television program featuring this new paramedic program. He initially visited Los Angeles County Fire Station 7's paramedic squad and subsequently spent time with Station 36. Following negotiations with the fire department, the television show "Emergency!" was produced. One important stipulation for the show was that: "All emergency incidents portrayed must have actually occurred and must be presented in an authentic fashion."

Randolph Mantooth was recruited to play John



Gage and Kevin Tighe was selected to play Roy DeSoto. This prime-time television show was so successful in its portrayal of the County's paramedic program that when the word "paramedic" was mentioned, people across the nation visualized the familiar Squad 51 truck and the actors who played the role. Numerous employees of the County Fire Department, particularly Battalion Chief James O. Page and Public Information Officer Richard

Friend, were involved in the production of the show as technical advisors and script consultants. Many of the firefighter paramedics served as technical directors, extras and consultants to the program's producers. "Emergency!" introduced the public to paramedics and was instrumental in the development and expansion of paramedic services throughout the nation.

After the show "Emergency!" was taken off the air, the 1972 Dodge "Squad 51" was generously donated by Universal Studios/NBC-4 to the Los Angeles County Fire Department. It was then subsequently donated to the County of Los Angeles Fire Museum. In 1998, following the reunion of the "Emergency!" show cast, the Museum sponsored the restoration of Squad 51 and began a tour across the United States, culminating in a stop at the National Mall in Washington D.C. in 2000. Along with props and equipment from the show such as the biocom, defibrillator and turn-out-coats, the original paramedic training text written by Dr. Ron Stewart was donated to the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History. Squad 51 remains the property of the County of Los Angeles Fire Museum and can be seen at various community events.

Mr. Cinader served as a Board of Supervisor's appointee to the Emergency Medical Services Commission for many years. Along with Drs. Criley and Graf, Cinader played an instrumental role in developing the County's Trauma Center Network. Mr. Cinader was a good friend to EMS and brilliant advisor. After his death in 1982, Los Angeles County Fire Station 127 was dedicated in his name.



## STAFFING ORDINANCE

In 1979, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Unit Staffing Policy which required two licensed paramedics to staff any ALS unit. This issue became extremely complicated and saw the formation of a paramedics union, the United Paramedics of Los Angeles (UPL). UPL addressed the "constant manning" staffing problems both city and county fire departments experienced before and after Proposition 13, which capped property tax rates in the state and resulted in loss of funding to city and county services, including firefighter personnel.

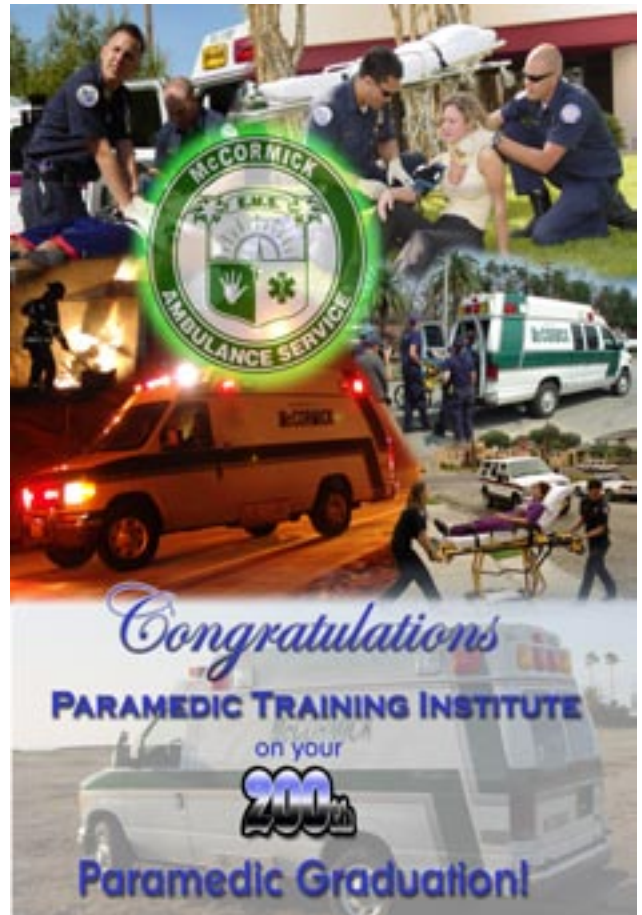
Though we remain a two-paramedic system, staffing configurations have been developed and unit apparatus have been augmented to meet the needs of our communities. Today, paramedics can be found working on helicopters, boats, bicycles, and private ambulances, providing care during interfacility transport.



# CH2MHILL

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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Prior to 1979, there were two advisory commissions for emergency medical services in the County. Both the County Paramedic Commission and the state-mandated Emergency Medical Care Commission were disbanded by the Board of Supervisors and replaced with a new Emergency Medical Services Commission, which represented all major elements of the County's EMS system. Today, the EMS Commission is made up of sixteen members and is advisory to the EMS Agency, making recommendations on policy, system issues and conducting public hearings on EMS-related issues.



## DESIGNATION OF CLEAR OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY

The passage of the Wedworth-Townsend Act in 1970 allowed for the continuation of paramedic services in Los Angeles County. Additionally, it authorized the Department of Health Services to certify and decertify paramedics but it did not designate a body of authority.

In 1979, an informal group of physicians, nurses, and paramedics calling themselves the Paramedic Study Group critically examined the Los Angeles EMS system. The group came to the conclusion that "someone," an authority body with clear operational authority, needed to assume the overall responsibility for the coordination, evaluation, and administrative development of the County's paramedic program.

These issues were addressed when the Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act (Senate Bill 125) was signed into law in November 1980. This law mandated state responsibility for EMS by designation of a state EMS Authority and local EMS Agencies. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized the county's Department of Health Services to fill this role, and for the first time in the paramedic program's history, a clear line of authority for such issues as approval of EMS paramedic training programs, authorization of base hospitals, certification/recertification of prehospital health care personnel, and standardization of both equipment and public education became centralized within one organization.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Today, paramedics and emergency medical services operate under the Health and Safety Code and Title 22.

While individual cities have implemented their paramedic programs with slightly different configurations, the local EMS Agency ensures that the emergency care provided to the public is coordinated. Today, our paramedic practice policies and procedures are developed with input from constituents through the EMS Commission and are much more likely to be based on solid research.

We are proud of the pioneering and leadership role that Los Angeles County has played in the EMS arena. Today, the County's 30 emergency paramedic provider agencies respond to over 500,000 calls a year. Approximately Eighty percent of the calls to fire departments are for medical emergencies and paramedics have proven to be extremely resourceful and creative when applying core emergency medical skills under adverse conditions.

With the advent of new medications, equipment, technology and research, the future will continue to call for changes in prehospital care practice. However, the cornerstone of prehospital emergency care is truly the frontline paramedics and EMTs who play a vital role in the safety net of emergency services for the County and provide compassionate and quality care to the communities they serve.



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## FIRST PARAMEDICS TRAINED AT HARBOR GENERAL-1969



Robert Belliveau	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Dale Cauble	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Gary Davis	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Gerald Nolls	Los Angeles County Fire Department
David Phillips	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Robert Ramstead	Los Angeles County Fire Department
William Crow	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Rocky Doke	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Richard Neal	Los Angeles County Fire Department
William Ridgeway	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Mike Stearns	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Ed Arnold	Los Angeles City Fire Department
Ralph Brownell	Los Angeles City Fire Department
Walter Hartsucker	Los Angeles City Fire Department
Chaude Griggs	Los Angeles City Fire Department
Dennis Grogan	Los Angeles City Fire Department
Jim Nelson	Los Angeles City Fire Department



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COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PARAMEDIC TRAINING INSTITUTE 200 CLASSES

## ALBUM INFORMATION

The EMS Agency is in the final stages of completing the commemorative album. The price will be based on the EMS Agency's publication cost only (projected to be \$75). We expect the album to be available by June 2007. You will be notified once the album is available for purchase. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Chidester at (323) 890-7543 or [cchidester@ladhs.org](mailto:cchidester@ladhs.org).



**This hard cover album will be between 500-600 pages and includes :**

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Dan Morgan  
Tarry Schwartz  
Dale Geldert  
Dennis Kirvin  
David Pickert  
Renny Bowden

Inglewood Fire Department  
Inglewood Fire Department  
Inglewood Fire Department  
Inglewood Fire Department  
Inglewood Fire Department  
Inglewood Fire Department

Charles Bender  
Lee Gustafson  
Bill Miles  
Roy Berlson  
Tim Conde  
Richard Kissam

Los Angeles County Fire Department  
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McCormick Ambulance Company  
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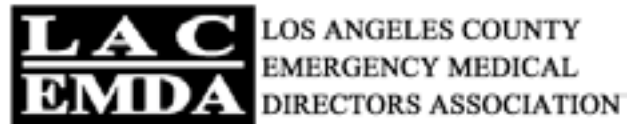
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"Hey, Roy. What do you think's gonna happen to the Squad and the Engine when the show's over?"

"I don't know. They'll probably put them in a warehouse."

"Warehouse!? I was thinking... maybe a museum."

"I don't think the Department has one. That kind of building, I mean."

"Oh. Yeah. Well, maybe we can help build one. Then people can come from all over to see them. I'm sure there's all sorts of incredible old County rigs, too... you know, like the one we restored."

"Maybe there could be classes and demonstrations to explain why things like math and science are important to our jobs."

"Yeah... for the kids who want to grow up to be Firefighters and Paramedics!"

"You know, Johnny... for once in your life, I think you've got a great idea."

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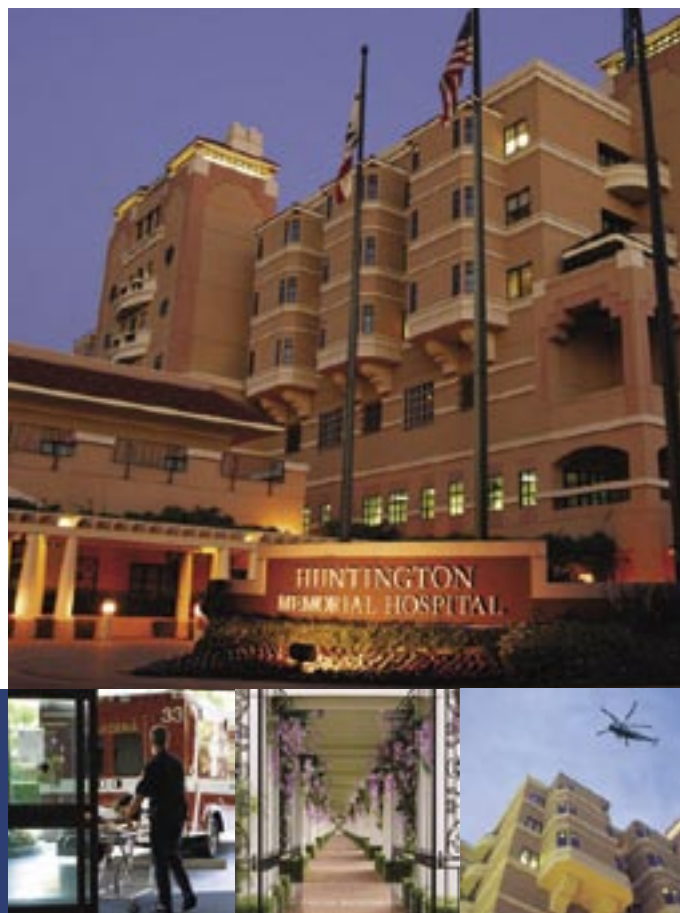
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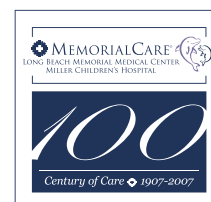
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